

REMARKS

These remarks follow the order of the paragraphs of the office action. Relevant portions of the office action are shown indented and italicized.

DETAILED ACTION

- 1. This office action is in response to the applicant's communication filed on November 7, 2006*
- 2. Claims 1-40 are presented for examination.*
- 3. The applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 17, 20, 25, 27, and 31 in the amendment received on November 7, 2006.*
- 4. Applicants' arguments filed on November 7, 2006 have been fully considered but are not deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.*

Remarks

- 5. The Examiner kindly requests that the applicant reviews the claims and remove the typo errors (i.e., qqqq, 'etc.') presented in the pending claims.*

In response, the applicants respectfully state that the typo errors occur in claim 1 which is canceled herein.

Claim Objections

- 6. Claims 20-22, 34, 35, and 40 objected to because of the following informalities: Independent claim 20 is being objected to because of a minor informality to the preamble. The examiner recommends that the applicants consider amending the preamble to include hardware. The preamble should recite a 'computer implemented' method. Appropriate correction is required.*

In response, the applicants respectfully state that claim 20 is amended to overcome the rejection by having the preamble recite a 'computer implemented' method.. This overcomes the objections to Claim 20 and Claims 21-22, 34, 35, and 40 that depend on claim 20. Thus Claims 20-22, 34, 35, and 40 are allowable.

Claim Rejections- 35 USC § 101

- 7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:*

1 *Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or*
2 *composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent*
3 *therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.*

4 *8. Claims 1, 12, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention*
5 *is directed to non-statutory subject matter. As follows:*

6 *Claims 1, 12, 17, 19, 23-27, 29-33, 37, and 39 are rejected under 35 USC. 101 because*
7 *the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.*

8 *Claims 1, 17, 25, 27, and 31 collectively are directed to search queries, mapping relevant*
9 *objects, connecting categories to paths, and choosing a best path for a criterion based on*
10 *the relevance of the mapped objects. The claimed inventions, as a whole must accomplish*
11 *a practical application. That is, it must produce a "useful, concrete, and tangible result."*
12 *State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. MPEP 2106. In each of these*
13 *cases the **result** is mapping and connecting categories. The claimed limitations are an*
14 *abstraction as they are not **useful concrete, and tangible**, they are not put in any*
15 *tangible form and not useful because they are not presented in a way to provide some*
16 *result that is of utility that may exist in the specification however no specific use is*
17 *provided for in the claimed invention. Thus the claims are non-statutory and stand*
18 *rejected under 101 as not **producing a "useful, concrete, and tangible result."***

19 *Although, independent claims 1, 17, 25, 27, and 31 are performing a query search, the*
20 *independent claims do not provide a useful, concrete, and tangible result about the*
21 *results of the query search. What happens to the query search in these claims as a result*
22 *of information being searched for? Is the query search conducted in an effort to retrieve*
23 *data for display, output, etc.*

24 *Also, claims 1, 17, 25, 27, and 31 should be amended to state that the search query is*
25 *being implemented by hardware. The examiner recommends amending the preamble of*
26 *the claims to state a 'computer implemented' method, apparatus, or system.*

27 *Likewise, dependent claims 12, 19, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 32, and 33 are non- statutory*
28 *because these dependent claims comprise an article of manufacture or a program storage*
29 *device, while their dependency depends on independent claims that are claiming an*
30 *apparatus or method.*

31 *Thus, the remaining dependent claims not mentioned in the above rejections are also*
32 *rejected for being dependent upon the above recited independent claims, these claims are*
33 *also rejected for the reasons set forth above.*

34 In response, the applicants respectfully state that in order to bring the objected-to claims to
35 allowance quickly, the rejected claims, Claims 1, 12, 17, 19, 23-27, 29-33, 37 and 39 are all
36 canceled. It is expected that the rejected claims will be further prosecuted in a continuation.

1 It is anticipated that this amendment results in the quick allowance of Claims 20-22, 34, 35, and
2 40.

3 Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper to deposit account 50-0510.

4 Respectfully submitted,

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